

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28669 / H0264

This bill would amend Title 33, Chapter 5208 of Idaho Code, which includes the Charter School Facilities Fund to provide funds for Charter Schools support for the purchase, free, loan or lease costs associated with charter school real property. Charter schools do not participate in local school levies or bond issues. The Fund was phased in over five years, when the total for educational support grew by 3% in each of those years, until a statutory cap was reached in 2019. In the 2021 pandemic related year, holdbacks orders highlighted the risk that if a \$1.00 decrease in the total education support program would have resulted in a decrease of 20% of the Charter School Facilities Fund distribution. Any decrease in the total educational support program is equally shared by Charter Schools. Charter Schools do not, however, participate in any school district property tax school bonds or facility levies. If overall school levies decrease for facilities, the Charter School Facilities Funds would decrease proportionately. This amendment to Idaho Code 33-5208 eliminates an automatic reduction in the Charter School Facilities fund if there is a reduction of the total educational support.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no expected fiscal impact in the 2022 Fiscal year. If this change had been in place in fiscal year 2020, and the legislature had approved a decrease in the appropriation for public school funding of \$1.00, there would have been a decrease of the total Charter School Facilities Calculation of \$1,888,488. This represents a 20% decrease in the total appropriation. This could have occurred if the COVID impacts had been anticipated in the 2020 legislative session and appropriations for public schools were decreased below the prior year. This could have occurred had anticipated decreases in state revenues been in the forecast while setting budgets. It is unclear if the Governor holdbacks and actions of the Idaho Board of Examiners would also have required a decrease in the Charter School Facilities Fund.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).